MISS LUCILE PETET, Dir., Cadet Nurse Corp.

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Cadet Nurse Corps

YOUNGEST and largest of the women’s uni-

formed services, the United States Cadet Nurse

Corps has made nursing history in the brief span of its exis-
tence. Created by the Bolton Act, passed unan-
imously by Congress on April 18, 1943, and

enacted into law on June 3, 1943, the Corps in-
cludes more than 112,000 women between the ages
of 17 and 35 who enrolled to help meet the emer-
gency demand for nursing service and at the same
time prepare themselves for a post-war profession.

The Bolton Act made it possible for the U. S. Pub-
lic Health Service to pro-

vide all-expense scholarships and allowances for

qualified candidates in accredited schools of nursing.
The students thus enrolled formed a reserve to relieve
critical shortages in government and civilian hospi-
tals, health agencies and war industries, and to re-
place the thousands of nurses being called up into
the armed services. Graduates under the Cadet Nurse
program pledged themselves to remain in essential nurs-
ing throughout the war and many chose to go into
the Army or Navy Nurse Corps on completion
of training.

Cadet Nurses were urged to consider, too, that the
demand for their services would grow after the war,
especially in the fields of public health and industrial
nursing. Nursing will play a tremen-
dous role in the rehabilitation of tomorrow’s

world, Miss Lucile Petet, Director of the U. S. Cadet
Nurse Corps, pointed out.

The appeal of the program was amply proved by the
fact that the Corps exceeded its recruitment quota for the
first two consecutive years of its existence. That expanded student enrollment per-

mitted the release of thousands of graduate nurses
from civilian hospitals for military services, as well
as providing a pool from which military and civilian
health agencies might draw.

According to the American Hospital Association,
the Corps prevented what would have been a trage-
dy of major proportion—the collapse of civilian
nursing service. Student nurses, 83 per cent of whom
were Cadets, were giving up their jobs in 80 per cent
of the patient care in all hospitals with schools of nurs-
ing, according to figures released September, 1941.

The Corps provided an accelerated study pro-
gram of 24 to 16 months, plus a six-month Senior
Cadet period during which student nurses assumed
the duties of graduate nurses under supervision.

Senior Cadets remained in their home hospitals or

were released from their schools into the Federal
Services—Army, Navy, Veterans’ Adminis-

tration, Public Health Service and Office of Industrial
Affairs—and to civilian hospitals caring for civilian
serv-

ices without schools of nursing.

Cadet Nurses studied their profession in more than
1,000 schools of nursing. Carefully organized and

administered by the Division of Nurse Education of
the U. S. Public Health Service, the Cadet Nurse
Corps graduated more than 28,000 nurses by Octo-

ber 1, 1945. All of them stepped into war service,
whether military or civilian, where their expert skills
were desperately needed. Bound only by a moral pledge,
Cadet Nurses patriotically served without demands
li-

gations and, as an investment for future national
health, are expected to pay dividends by staff-

ing expanding hospitals and agencies.

Above: Calm and dependable in emergencies, a student
nurse tends a stnare nurse for a treacherous.

THINK

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